



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

March 5, 2012

Mr. B.L. Ivey  
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs  
Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 1295  
BIN B022  
Birmingham, AL 35201

**SUBJECT: SEMIANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN – VOGTLE  
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4**

Dear Mr. Ivey:

On February 7, 2012, the NRC staff completed its semiannual performance review of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. Our staff reviewed the results of inspections conducted from July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the results of security inspections that have been conducted at your facility and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent assessment period at VEGP Units 3 and 4 was within the Baseline Program column of the NRC's Construction Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being categorized at Severity Level IV or lower. Therefore, we plan to conduct construction reactor oversight process (cROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled in 2012. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the coordination of resources well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

The NRC has been developing a revised cROP assessment program. A one year pilot program for the new assessment program began at your facility on January 1, 2012. As part of the new assessment process, we will transition to an annual assessment cycle also beginning on January 1, 2012. A public meeting in the vicinity of your facility to discuss our performance assessment results and to describe our new assessment program will be held within three months of the issuance of this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public

Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Michael Ernstes at (404) 997-4540 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael Ernstes, Chief  
Construction Projects Branch 4  
Division of Construction Projects

Docket Numbers

ESP/LWA: 052-011

Unit 3: 052-025

Unit 4: 0 52-026

License Numbers: NPF-91  
NPF-92

Enclosure: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 Proposed Inspection Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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ADAMS:  Yes      ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12065A385       SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE  FORM 665 ATTACHED

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DATE	2/24/2012	2/28/2012	3/5/2012	3/2/2012	3/5/2012	3/5/2012	
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Letter to B.L. Ivey from Michael Ernstes dated March 5, 2012

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ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4

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**Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4 Proposed Inspection Plan**

<b>Programmatic Inspections (Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2504)</b>	
<b>Est. Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1Q 2012	Reporting of Defects and Noncompliance Inspection Construction Quality Assurance Semiannual Implementation
2Q 2012	Corrective Action Program Implementation Inspection Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) Management Inspection
3Q 2012	Commercial Grade Dedication Program Review (initial)
3Q 2012	Construction Quality Assurance Semiannual Implementation

<b>ITAAC Inspections (IMC 2503)</b>	
<b>Est. Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
2012	<p>The majority of ITAAC related inspections, in 2012, are expected to be associated with the following construction activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foundation and waterproof membrane installation</li> <li>2. Containment vessel fabrication</li> <li>3. Nuclear Island Work</li> <li>4. Structural and mechanical module work – on site and at Shaw Modular Solutions</li> </ol> <p>The NRC staff will also inspect miscellaneous ITAAC and Design Acceptance Criteria activities (e.g. Protection and Safety Monitoring System and Human Factors Engineering development, type tests, and other ITAAC related work on site and at vendor facilities).</p>

Note: Inspection schedule is subject to change based on licensing and construction activities.